

THE NATIONAL SPORTING LIBRARY NEWSLETTER

A Research Center for Horse and Field Sports

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Laura Rose, Editor

The Von Hünersdorf Library: A Magnificent Addition to the NSL

by Ellen B. Wells

Ellen Wells is Head, Special Collections Department, Smithsonian Institution Libraries, Washington, D.C. Wells, a director of the NSL, has written extensively on the horse, its history and bibliography.

The National Sporting Library has acquired the von Hünersdorf library, an important horse book collection begun by a late 18th-century riding master and later inherited, partly reconstructed and built upon by his great-great-grandson. These materials, donated through the generosity of the Ohrstrom Foundation, complement and extend the holdings of the Library significantly.

The collection consists of 205 titles ranging in date from 1528 to the 1900s, including a first edition of the Duke of Newcastle's *Méthode et Invention Nouvelle de Dresser les Chevaux* (Antwerp, 1657). Coupled with the Arundel donation of books formerly in the library of the great 19th-century horse bibliographer Frederick Henry Huth, the von Hünersdorf collection establishes the Library as a research collection in the history of horsemanship as well as an information source for readers concerned with current issues in the sport.

The collection provides researchers with a rich selection of many major European texts on riding, training, breeding, cavalry applications and veterinary medicine from the Renaissance to the late 19th century (see box, page 2). A significant number of the books are very rare. Few copies are reported by libraries and collectors over the last hundred years; few appear on the market. Some were published in small editions, and others became scarce by neglect, being considered insignificant, unsellable or uncollectable.

Ludwig von Hünersdorf (1748-1812) left a military career early in life to de-

vote himself to horsemanship. He was soon made responsible for the Prince of Hesse's riding stables, and from 1776 served as senior riding master. It was at this time that he apparently began to form his library. His contribution to the literature of horse training, *Anleitung zu der natürlichsten und leichtesten Art Pferde abzurichten* ("Instruction in the most natural and lightest method of training horses"), was first published in Marburg in 1790. He eventually became grand equerry and director of the breeding program of the King of Württemberg, who made him baron for his outstanding services.

Drawing upon his own wide experience and practical approach, von Hünersdorf merged his method with the principles of La Guérinière to produce a very usable manual, which indeed became a classic, remaining in use until well into the 19th century. The work bridged the classical court riding through the needs of military training and the development and preservation of dressage in the early 19th-century circus.

A first edition of Ludwig von Hünersdorf's own *Anleitung*, one of the few first issues dated 1790, is present. Matching this is von Hünersdorf's own copy of the splendid set of 16 colored engraved plates illustrating dressage movements made to compliment the *Anleitung* by artist Johann Georg Pffor.

Critical views of the master range from appraisals of modest achievement ("admirer of La Guérinière," and

"... the first German work usable for training equitation in the school and outside") to high praise ("... the first classical work on German riding art" and "... treats above all dressage, somewhat old-fashioned but withall prudent and wise ... was the predecessor of Baucher in the placement of the head and rider contact with the bit.").

Signed, Sealed and Bound

The majority of volumes in the collection are in bindings contemporary or near the publication dates of the books they protect. The materials reflect the styles in favor during the various eras, for example, vellum and pigskin the 1500s and 1600s; Morocco, sheep and calf later on; and finally, cloth and partial leather bindings of the 1800s and 1900s.

We know some of the previous owners of many of the books by armorial bindings, signatures, inscriptions and bookplates. Some were well-known book collectors and horse lovers. At least four volumes were owned by J.H.



*This beautiful illustration appears in the Duke of Newcastle's *Méthode et Invention Nouvelle de Dresser les Chevaux* (Antwerp, 1657), one of the highlights of the collection.*

The Von Hünersdorf Collection: Important Writers From Every Era

Xenophon, Nicander and Vegetius Renatus from antiquity; Claude Corte, Cesare Fiaschi and Federico Grisone from the 1500s; William Cavendish, Giorgio Basta, Francesco Liberati, Christoff Jacob Lieb and Jean Tacquet from the 1600s; Manuel Carlos de Andrade, Claude Bourgelat, François Garsault, Ludwig von Hünersdorf, Philippe Etienne LaFosse, François Robichon de La Guérinière, the Earl of Pembroke and Gaspard Saunier from the 1700s; François Baucher, Melchior Daumas, James Fillis, Victor Franconi, Jean Jules Lenoble du Teil, Charles Hubert Raabe and Christian Ehrenfried von Tennecker from the 1800s.

Anderhub, a pre-World War II collector whose horse books were sold at auction in 1963.

The copy of Emile Adet's *O cavallo* ("The horse," Rio de Janeiro, 1858) was the author's presentation copy to Ephrem Houël. Houël wrote a pioneering two-volume history of the horse, published a few years earlier, which included a chapter on the horse in South America. Adet may have known Houël in Paris before he left for Brazil.

Three books bear the initials of Sir William Stirling Maxwell stamped into their bindings, including Zuniga's *Doctrina del Cavallo y Arte de Enfrenar* ("Instruction on the horse and the art of biting," Lisbon, 1705). This owner was a distinguished 19th century historical writer who was instrumental in bringing the glories of Spanish art to the general public. He also bred Short-horn cattle and Clydesdale horses.

Few copies of legal documents reach the antiquarian market, and fewer people think of collecting them, yet they have great historical importance. The von Hünersdorf collection includes six examples, including three from the 1600s and 1700s on the regulation of horse breeding in Spain and Portugal, countries renowned for their horses.

The collection reflects its historical sensitivity and European roots in the languages covered and distribution of the imprints by century. The most frequently represented languages, in descending order, are: French (56), Italian (47), German (31), English (30), Portuguese (14), Spanish (14). Other languages include Latin, Swedish, Dutch and Hungarian. The French language imprints cluster in the 1800s, the Italian in the 1500-1600s, the German in the 1800s, the English in the 1700-1800s, and the Portuguese in the 1700s. These data reflect to some extent the shift in cultural emphasis and publishing activity from country to country through time, from the Italian Renaissance to the French and German interest in the 1800s in breeding and military affairs.

The researcher will find among these

materials rich resources in the history of horsemanship. The flowering of dressage in the European circus can be traced from Victor Franconi's *L'Écuyer* ("The Riding Instructor," Paris, 1860), through Francois Baucher's *Oeuvres Complètes* ("Complete Works," Paris, 1854), to James Fillis' *Principes de Dressage et d'Équitation* ("Principles of training and riding," Paris, 1891).

Although none of these are in first editions, they represent working texts for these great masters of the 19th century.

A Cavendish Classic

The jewel in this fine collection is a very special copy of *Méthode et Invention Nouvelle de Dresser les Chevaux* ("Method and new way to train horses," Antwerp, 1657), by William Cavendish, first duke of Newcastle. Trained by St. Antoine in England before his political exile, Cavendish worked out training methods modified from the master, from the Italian sources translated into English, and from his own humane common sense. The text is enhanced by superb engraved illustrations, many showing school riding and training, as well as remarkable portraits of the duke's horses. This copy has a richly tooled and decorated contemporary binding, identified as by Samuel Mearne, royal binder to Charles II. The volume has a distinguished "pedigree" of ownership, having been apparently presented by the duke to John Evelyn (or to his father-in-law; there is some ambiguity to the annotations in the volume). Cavendish met the renowned English diarist, and Secretary of the Royal Society of London, indicative of the high social and political circles in which he moved.

In the 1800s, many European countries became concerned with changing military needs and national security. Government programs were established, especially in France and the German states, to encourage breeders to produce stock meeting specific standards of conformation, soundness,

temperament and endurance. Many modern Warmbloods trace their roots to these programs. One of the strengths of the von Hünersdorf collection is the representation of some of the major texts on these issues.

An example is Auzoux' 1860 polemic on the poor supply of sound, quality horses. The polemic is little known but indicative of the concern, which arose not long before the war of 1870. Another is the Comte de Brézé's *Essai sur les haras* ("Essay on breeding farms," Turin, 1769), in the enlarged second edition with added chapters describing specific farms, and considering management of them.

Brand books illustrating brands and identifying the owners are important sources for identification of breeding establishments, and the collection has some very rare examples of them dating from the 1500s. Mostly Italian in origin, they were heavily used and few survived.

Arabian horses were long considered as a rich source for improvement of native breeds in Europe, and the von Hünersdorf collection includes sources reflecting this concern. René Chatelain's *Memoire sur les chevaux arabes* ("Memoir on Arabian horses," Paris, 1816) discussed improving French horses by using Arabian stallions. Melchior Daumas' influential and informed *Les Chevaux du Sahara* ("The horses of the Sahara," Paris, 1851), reprinted and translated many times, was a knowledgeable and comprehensive work on Arabian horses, based on the author's first-hand experience in North Africa. August Jaeger's *Das orientalische Pferd und das Privat-Gestüte Seiner Majestät des Königs von Württemberg* ("The oriental horse and the private stud of His Majesty the King of Württemberg," Stuttgart, 1846) describes one of the more ambitious programs of middle Europe.

This brief introduction gives a hint of the rich resources of the von Hünersdorf collection which, once cataloged, will be available to readers at the National Sporting Library.

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COMMENTS FROM THE CURATOR

by Alexander Mackay-Smith

The Huth-Lonsdale-Arundel Collection

One of the largest and most famous collections of horse books made during the 19th century resides at the National Sporting Library. The Huth-Lonsdale-Arundel collection, about 300 volumes dating from 1553 to 1908, was donated in 1975 through the generosity of Mrs. Russell Arundel and her husband, the late Mr. Arundel.

Frederick Henry Huth (1844-1918) assembled the collection in the city of Bath, whose healing waters have brought comfort to Britons since the Roman legions bathed there. Huth's residence was Beckford House, a name dear to the hearts of foxhunters. This was part of the Lansdown Crescent, a group of magnificent late 18th century contiguous town houses in crescent form.

In assembling his collection, Huth had the invaluable assistance of Bernard Quaritch, the most eminent of all British dealers in rare books. The two men agreed that a bibliography of books about horses was badly needed and that it should include not only a general index, but also a series of subject indexes on the various divisions of horses and horsemanship. Huth wrote:

"Some years ago, being then a collector of curious and scarce books on the horse, I was induced to compile for my own satisfaction and use, a catalogue containing very full bibliographical details of the works on that subject in my own possession. It was afterwards suggested to me to extend the scope of my catalogue, and form an index on the bibliography of the horse. Acting on this, I increased by long-continued and troublesome research, the number of books tenfold."

In 1887 Quaritch published a limited edition of the fulfillment of this enterprise: *Works on Horses and Equitation: A Bibliographical Record of Hippology*, by F.H. Huth. The book, which was beautifully printed on a high quality paper and bound in half vellum, contained 489 pages. The entries are listed chronologically, from Kimon of Athens (c. 430 B.C.) to the Badminton Library volume on racing (1886). The

final 172 pages are devoted to alphabetical subject headings. Some examples of the headings are: artistic, authors, bibliography, the chase, and equitation and stable management.

Huth's book will never be out of date. Though it is over 100 years old, it is still an important tool for horsemen. The author wrote:

"I have endeavoured in the following pages to supply the subject of Hippology, and it is believed that in them will be found a fuller and more trustworthy reference on the subject of the genus *Equus* and everything appertaining to it than has before been published."

"The Yellow Earl"

After Huth's death in 1918 the collection was acquired by Hugh Lowther, Earl of Lonsdale (1857-1944). One of the most colorful figures in the history of sport, Lord Lonsdale was known as "The Yellow Earl." Yellow was the color of the Lowther family. When he was master of the most fashionable of all British hunts, the Quorn (1893-1898), he turned out the entire staff, from huntsman to second horsemen, not in scarlet but yellow. Many Quorn followers were watching the day that Lonsdale's horse ran away and, in a single leap, jumped two wire fences 32 feet apart in actual measurement.

Lonsdale was a great coaching man. His four-in-hand, with its chestnut horses and servants in yellow livery, was a familiar and colorful sight in Hyde Park. In 1891, when an opponent in a driving match failed to appear, Lonsdale refused to disappoint would-be spectators. He instead drove single, pair and four-in-hand, and rode postilion, for 20 miles in 55 minutes and 55 3/4 seconds.

Why would so flamboyant a sportsman buy the Huth Library? One of Lord Lonsdale's major interests was the literature of sport. He was the founder, patron and editor-in-chief of the Lonsdale Library, a series of books on all types of outdoor sports and games published by J.B. Lippincott Co.

In his introduction to the 1940 volume *Flat Racing*, he notes that the series is intended to "help and instruct," and that it will be of interest to both the "tyro" and expert. Concerning the need for books containing new developments, he cites the discovery of grouse disease and the vision of salmon. As to games, he points to new methods of batting and bowling in

cricket, and better clubs and balls in golf.

Finally, he writes that the purpose of the editors is to make the Lonsdale Library complete. In fact, this volume on flat racing begins with J.P. Robertson's article "The Origins of the Thoroughbred," which is to date the best study of the subject in print.

Across The Atlantic

After Lord Lonsdale's death in 1944, the collection was acquired by the Arundel Foundation, which was created by Russell Arundel (1902-1978) of Warrenton, Va. A leader in the horse community of northern Virginia, Arundel served as master of the Warrenton Hunt from 1949 to 1954 and from 1962 to 1968. He was also an effective advocate of environmental protection issues.

In 1975 the Arundel Foundation presented the collection to the National Sporting Library. It considerably increased the Library's holdings of early horse literature. The horsemanship collection includes a fine copy bound in original vellum of Grisone's *Gli Ordini Di Cavalcare* (Venice, 1553). Early works on veterinary medicine are also well represented, including Giovanni Antonio Cito's *Del Conoscere le Infermita al Cavallo* (Venice, 1590) and Claude Bourgelat's *Elemens d'Hippiatrique* (Lyon, 1750).



Collection donor Russell Arundel was master of the Warrenton Hunt.

Nimrod's Papers Go To Ground At U.VA.

by Robert Brickhouse

The University of Virginia Library has acquired a large collection of unpublished letters and personal papers of one of the first great sports journalists.

Forget Red Smith or Grantland Rice. Charles James Apperley, a 19th-century Englishman who wrote vivid, detailed accounts under the byline "Nimrod," was churning out sports articles 100 years before they were and was the most popular sporting correspondent of his day. The sports he liked to cover? Fox hunting and horse racing.

The Apperley papers, acquired by U.Va.'s Marion duPont Scott collection of sporting books, are an important addition to the collection and will be useful to sports historians, social and literary historians and many others with an interest in English life of the era, said Clint Sisson, curator of the collection.

The Scott collection, bequeathed to the university with an accompanying endowment in 1985, contains more than 4,000 volumes relating to the long history of horse racing, breeding, hunting and most other rural and estate sports popular over the years in England and America.

Apperley, whose "Nimrod" articles and books on fox hunting during the

golden age of British hunting in the 1820s and '30s were eagerly read throughout England and in the United States, was known as vain and pompous as well as brilliant, and his letters and private papers bear this out, said Sisson. And in true journalistic tradition, they show him constantly complaining to his publisher that he should be better paid.

Like the Marion duPont Scott collection itself, the 11-volume archive, containing some 1,200 of Apperley's letters, papers and manuscripts, provides a wealth of detail about the roles hunting and horses have played in society. It was purchased from a New York rare book and manuscript dealer with funds from the Scott endowment.

Apperley (1778-1843) was known for his lively, anecdote-filled accounts, written mainly for *The Sporting Magazine*, the greatest sports journal of its day. Most of the letters in the collection deal with his often stormy relations with that magazine and its publisher. Although Apperley was loaned and paid increasing amounts of money and moved in the best social circles as he covered countless hunts and other events, he lived extravagantly and somehow always managed to be hard up.

Typical letters range from Apperley's own personal horse-dealing interests, to complaints about the quality of

other writers' work, to suggestions for raising the price of the magazine ("to enable you to keep Nimrod going"), to details of his hunting tours, complete with expense reports, to bits of gossip ("Tom Smith and his new pack of foxhounds, and his *new wife*"). In addition to repeatedly praising himself, his letters are sprinkled with names of royalty, nobility and sporting personalities. He makes suggestions for articles on cockfighting, fencing, pheasant breeding and other popular pursuits of the day.

All of this would have much delighted the late Marion duPont Scott of Montpelier in Orange County, Va., Sisson said. The collection that was bequeathed to the university by this well-known horse breeder and philanthropist reflected her lifelong interest in a wide range of sporting and related subjects, including racing, breeding, horsemanship, carriages, farm buildings, dogs and even game fowl. The collection's books and periodicals include both antiquarian and modern works on numerous specialized areas, from falconry and veterinary medicine to horse-shoeing and life on the old coach roads of England and America.

A great-granddaughter of the founder of the duPont corporation, Mrs. Scott was raised on her Montpelier estate, originally James Madison's home,

"Yooi, OVER he goes!" holloas the Squire, as he perceived Joker and Jewell plunging into the stream, and Red-rose shaking herself on the opposite bank.

Seven men, out of thirteen, take it in their stride; three stop short, their horses refusing the first time, but come well over the second; and three find themselves in the middle of it. The gallant Frank Forester is among the latter; and having been requested that morning to wear a friend's new red coat, to take off the gloss and glare of the shop, he accomplished the task to perfection in the bluish-black mud of the Whissendine, only then subsiding after a three days' flood.

"Who is that under his horse in the brook?" inquires that good sportsman and fine rider, Mr. Green, of Rolleston, whose noted old mare has just skimmed over the water like a swallow on a summer's evening. "It's Middleton Biddulph," says one. "Pardon me," cries Mr. Middleton Biddulph; "Middleton Biddulph is here, and here he means to be!" "Only Dick Christian," answers Lord Forester, "and it is nothing new to him." "But he'll be drowned," exclaims Lord Kinnauld. "I shouldn't wonder," observes Mr. William Coke. But the pace is too good to inquire.

"Nimrod" *Hunting Reminiscences*

Sporting journalist "Nimrod" (Charles J. Apperley) lived the life of horses and hounds in extravagant style.



where she developed her long love of animals, especially horses. She owned and bred several famous horses, including Battleship, who won both the British and American Grand National steeplechases, and Mongo, who won more than \$800,000 in purses. She founded the celebrated Montpelier Races steeplechase and was married for a time to the Hollywood actor Randolph Scott.

Typical of the collection's strengths are examples of original 19th-century and early 20th-century manufacturers' catalogues of carriages, tack, stable fixtures and related supplies. "With this type of information, you could authentically recreate or restore a 19th-century stable or carriage—and even know how the original trimming was produced," Sisson said. "As we add to the collection," he noted, "our goal is to carry forward and perpetuate Mrs. Scott's broad interests in equestrian and related sports and to serve regional interests as well."

Brickhouse is a staff writer for the University of Virginia news office; this story appears courtesy Inside U.Va. magazine. For more information on the Scott collection, call (804) 924-4964, or write to Clint Sisson, Alderman Library, University of Virginia, Charlottesville, Va. 22903-2498.

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Seen in the Stacks . . .

Visitors:

- Florence Hillman of Middleburg researched weights pulled by driving horses and other coaching topics.
- Carolyn Banks, a writer from Elgin, Texas, did research for the second title in a new series of mystery novels. The first, *Death by Dressage*, will be out in November.
- Paul Hodge, a reporter with *The Washington Post*, looked into the history of pony racing.
- Don Hartman and Paul Parrish, members of the Romwell Fox Hounds in Romney, Ind., perused the foxhunting collection.
- Julia Scoville of Reston, Va., took a browse through the collection.
- Louisa Woodville of Warrenton, Va., searched for ideas for a logo for the new Middleburg Classic Horse Show to be held this fall.
- James McClean and Gary Sturts of the Skycastle French (Basset) Hounds in Chester Springs, Pa., browsed through the hunting and field sports books.
- Thomas Bracey of Berryville, Va., browsed through the horsemanship collection.
- Tom Mann of Warrenton, Va., looked for images to use in a new logo for the Washington International Horse Show.
- William Binns of Yorkshire, England, perused the coaching collection.
- John K. Gott of Arlington, Va., looked for information on the history of the Orange County Hunt in preparation for a history of The Plains, Va.
- Boudewijn Commandeur of The Netherlands looked into endurance riding.
- Dr. Robert Banner of Richmond, Va., traced Thoroughbred bloodlines in the *American Produce Records*.
- Kay Gunter of Boyce, Va., researched genetics and coat color inheritance in horses.
- Scott Tepper of Los Angeles, Calif., enjoyed a peek at the foxhunting collection's hunt diaries and scrapbooks.
- Laurel Scott of Middleburg researched the history of the Warrenton Horse Show grounds.
- Barclay Rives of Keswick, Va., searched for information on the Keswick Hunt. Rives is writing a history of the hunt for its upcoming 100th anniversary.
- George Sloan of Franklin, Tenn., took a tour of the collection.
- Lisa Campbell of Leesburg, Va., hunted information on the dressage pas de deux.
- Tracy and Steve Williams of Hamilton, Bermuda, browsed through books on sporting art. Tracy is a working equine artist.
- Dorothy Smith of Broad Run, Va., researched the history of steeplechasing for a segment on the Virginia Gold Cup for Sportsight, a cable television sports show.
- Norman Fine of Millwood, Va., looked into a variety of foxhunting topics.
- Angelynn King of Falls Church, Va., browsed through books on falconry and related field sports.

Phone/Mail

- Kathy Smith of Berryville, Va., researching the hunting territory of England's Quorn Hunt.
- Kate Tyndall of Washington, D.C., researching staghunting and Irish showjumper Eddie Macken.
- Maureen Riley of Pinckney, Mich., researching John Hervey's *The Turf Career of Man o'War*.
- Clara Pierre Reeves of Princeton, N.J., researching Gertrude Rives Potts, an early female master of foxhounds in America. Potts hunted her pack at "Castle Hill," near Charlottesville, Va., from 1888 to 1933.
- Cary Jackson of Oxford, Pa., researching jumping chutes.
- Jackie Van Houten of Villa Hills, Ky., researching contemporary French equine artists. Van Houten, who was awarded a National Endowment for the Humanities grant, will spend six weeks in France researching horse racing, breeding, literature and art.

Book News and Reviews

THAT WINNING FEELING! Jane Savoie. Trafalgar Square Publishing, North Pomfret, Vt. 05053. 146 pp. Illus. Index. \$19.95.

Hunter/jumper and event riders might not pick up Jane Savoie's book immediately, because at first glance it looks dressage oriented. Savoie, a top dressage competitor and trainer, picks up where Sally Swift left off in *Centered Riding*, using psychocybernetics (the science of positive mind power) to help riders in all disciplines achieve their personal riding goals.

The book is divided into three sections—Attitude and Mental Training, Training, and Competition—which Savoie applies to dressage and jumping in friendly, readable language. The author clearly presents her main premise that the rider's mind is the most powerful tool in getting "Whatever I Need (the WIN mechanism)," or in sabotaging that process. Savoie offers relaxation and visualization exercises for every rider to "program for success." In addition, she highlights her ideas with pertinent examples and inspiring tales of well-known combined training and dressage riders.

A near Olympian in dressage in 1992, Savoie can't help but focus more heavily on dressage than jumping, but does her best not to exclude any type of rider in her examples. If non-dressage riders take the time to look into Savoie's book, they'll find an interesting approach to riding that is not only logical and easy but that also works for every type of rider from the backyard to the Olympic arena.

I.C.

NATIONAL TO NATIONAL, A YEAR ON THE SHOW JUMPING CIRCUIT. David W. Hollis. Howell Book House, Macmillan Publishing Company, 866 Third Ave., New York, N.Y. 10022. 1992. 204 pp. Illus. Index. \$25.00.

For many riders who follow the show circuit, there are moments of extreme elation, such as winning the first grand prix class, and times of heartache, such as losing a top horse to colic or having a debilitating injury. Author David Hollis captures these feelings and more in his year-long look at the inner workings of the grand prix jumping circuit through the eyes of grand



TRICIA BOOKER PHOTO

Michael Matz, one of the riders featured in National to National, aboard Olisco at the 1993 Upperville Jumper Classic.

prix newcomer Kate Chope, successful young star Beezie Patton and veteran Michael Matz.

For those not associated with the finer details of grand prix show jumping, Hollis provides explanation in a candid, relaxed manner that belies the many years he has spent covering the riders and events as an equestrian journalist. For veteran horsemen, he describes in detail the plans and training schedules these top riders follow in their year-end pursuits.

One of the best parts of the book for me was delving into the riders' inner thoughts and understanding the outcome of their rides, classes and schedules in relation to their original plans. It is not a how-to book, however, and there are no training tips, but nevertheless, the reader learns how these horsemen achieve their goals.

There are many things all riders have in common—from grand prix riders to adult amateurs—and in this book we are able to relate to the dreams, goals and continuing challenges of top riders. It allows us to take a peek at their lives from one year's National Horse Show to the next and live their experience as inside observers. Hollis' book offers something few other equestrian books have—an open door to follow the circuit without ever leaving home.

T.L.B.

FOX HUNTING. Jane Ridley. William Collins Sons & Co., Ltd. London. 1990. 211 pp. Illus. Bibliography. Index. \$30.00.

The sport of foxhunting is traced from its origin as organized pack hunting in England in the 1600s to the considerable challenges of the sport in England today. Incredible research has been undertaken by Ridley, a foxhunter and college history professor. A total of 407 notes refer to 264 books on hunting and history, so exposure is given to sporting authors like Nimrod, Surtees, Whyte-Melville, Beckford, Somerville and Trollope.

Ridley's text is highlighted by humorous anecdotes. An incident concerning the Prince of Wales in the 1920s is typical: "The Prince of Wales jumped into a field of roots on top of the Quorn pack. The master roared, 'Hold hard, you, you double-dyed bounder.' Then seeing who it was, weakly, with the field dissolving into laughter, 'Oh, I say, sir, ripping, ripping.'"

Besides humor, there's a wealth of information for foxhunters. The chapter "Image of War" states that until World War II foxhunting was basic training for cavalry service in wartime. Ridley refers to Lt. Col E.A.H. Alderson's book *Pink and Scarlet* (London, 1900) as to how each stage of hunting had its equivalent in war: "Riding to the meet gave an officer an eye for the country; watching hounds draw trained the officer in the 'use of the ground'; the hunt itself—the battle—provided training in initiative. Even dressing for hunting was valuable. Putting on exquisite pink and white to gallop through mud taught an officer to set an example to his men, and to see that they themselves were well turned out."

Other chapters explain the evolution of female foxhunters; threats from rail lines and wire; the growth of the anti-blood sports lobby from the founding of the Royal Society for the Prevention of Cruelty to Animals in 1824; foxhunting in Ireland; and much more.

Fox Hunting has everything—laborious research into every facet of the sport's history; an introduction to classical artists and journalists; and a easy-to-read style of writing. *Fox Hunting* is the best overview of the history of the sport that I've read.

P.W.



MICHAEL LYNE: SPORTING ARTIST. John Yeates. The Sportsman's Press, distributed by Trafalgar Square, North Pomfret, Vt. 05053. 1993. 128 pp. Illus. Appendix. Index. \$45.00.

Michael Lyne (1912-1989) succeeded Sir Alfred Munnings and Lionel Edwards as England's foremost sporting artist. He was a foxhunter, having enjoyed sport with 40 packs in England, France and the United States through the years, and also served as the master of a pack of beagles. Lyne's hunting scenes reflect this intimacy.

Lyne also loved steeplechase racing; the excellence of his racing pictures, particularly the Grand National, are indicative of this.

Sixteen color plates of paintings are in Yeates' book along with 42 black and white reproductions of art, a number of sketches and photographs of family, friends and places.

"I thank God for instilling in me the love of animals and birds, the quiet places, the simple and grand things of beauty, and the compelling excitement of the chase," Lyne stated.

Lyne's love of "quiet places and the simple and grand things of beauty" is seen in "Rest for the Wary," an oil painting of hounds in the kennel. Some have closed eyes and are using each other as pillows.

The "compelling excitement of the chase" is evident in hunting scenes throughout the book. Lyne started yearly visits to the United States in the early 1950s; hence, paintings of American hunts and steeplechases are included.

Yeates gives an excellent description of Lyne's life, and the appendices substantiate Lyne's prominence in sporting art. Included are listings of one-man exhibitions, signed limited edition prints, and books illustrated.

The administrators of the National Sporting Library are pleased to add *Michael Lyne, Sporting Artist* to its collection of books on sporting art, which includes four other books on Lyne: *Horses, Hounds and Country* (Charles Scribner's Sons, 1938); *From Litter to Later On* (The Standfast Press, 1973); *A Parson's Son, Sporting Artist* (J.A. Allen, 1974); and *The Michael Lyne Sketch Book* (The Standfast Press, 1979).

P.W.

RIDERS UP! Barbara Beirne. Carolrhoda Books, Inc., 241 First Ave. North, Minneapolis, Minn. 55401. 1992. 56 pp. Illus. \$15.95.

Their mounts may be a number of hands shorter, but beyond that, pony race riders are little different from professional jocks. Their spirit of competition is just as strong, as is their dedication to the training of their ponies.

This book follows eight-year-old Jasmine Napravnik as she prepares for, and competes in, her first pony race, held at the Far Hills, N.J., race meeting. Jasmine and her 12-hand pony, Charlie, are ready for the challenge. "I'm almost exactly one year older than Charlie. He's seven years old now, and for the last two years I've schooled him. That means teaching him to understand my commands. Schooling Charlie has taken patience, but I've learned a lot from him. Charlie and I are a team. We've grown up together."

Young readers tag along with Jasmine as she attends Pony Club camp, bounces back from a fall, and gets fitted for her racing silks. Though she has barn work and tack cleaning to do, she also finds time for fun—from playing in the hayloft to practicing her racing skills. One special occasion is a visit to steeplechase jockey Blythe Miller; unfortunately Miller's first name is spelled incorrectly in the book.

Though many are obviously staged, Beirne's photos are, on the whole, effective—a nice shot of dad, the blacksmith, at the anvil, and another of Jasmine with mom, the horse trainer, getting last-minute tips just before the race.

My only curiosity about this book is that it actually concentrates on pony racing. When compared to other horse sports, the number of young riders competing in pony racing is miniscule; in addition, the number of meets offering pony races has declined in recent years. I wonder if Beirne's efforts would have been better spent on a horse sport that her young readers would have a better chance of participating in, or, at the very least, viewing at the spectator level.

Nevertheless, *Riders Up!* offers a well-rounded introduction to pony racing that will easily appeal to young racing enthusiasts.

L.R.



Michael Lyne's painting, "Walking Out," is of Ireland's Kildare pack in 1979. The tiny Jack Russell terrier in the foreground is Poker, who Lyne got from Kildare's huntsman. The *Chronicle of the Horse* magazine featured this painting on a 1985 cover. Since 1949, the *Chronicle* has used Lyne's art on the cover 29 times.

NSL Seeks Presentation Copies

Authors and publishers of sporting books are being contacted by the National Sporting Library to donate signed copies of books that will be offered to Friends of the Library as part of its Duplicate Book Sale in November.

A listing of the presentation copies will appear in the catalogue of the 1993 Duplicate Book Sale. The catalogue will be mailed to Friends of the Library in early October.

The NSL Duplicate Book Sale, which is run as a silent auction, is the main fundraiser for the Library; in 1992, more than \$12,000 was raised.

Friends of the Library—Perhaps you have books to donate to the NSL.

Authors and publishers—Perhaps we've overlooked your book.

Donations are tax-deductible. For more information on donations or the book sale, contact Laura Rose at (703) 687-6542.

The National Sporting Library is one of four institutions now forming a consortium of horse-related information centers in Virginia. Members of group, which has the proposed name "Equinet," will join forces in sharing resources and ideas, and in building complementary collections. They will also work toward increasing public awareness of all that member institutions have to offer. The other members of the core group are the Marion duPont Scott Collection at the University of Virginia, Charlottesville; the Carriage Museum of America Library, Leesburg; and the Marion duPont Scott Equine Medical Center, also of Leesburg. Stay tuned for more information on "Equinet" and its activities.

Do you think that the NSL's Peter Winants and Laura Rose spend all their time in the vault reading horse books? This spring the NSL staff emerged from the library and met up with two groups of horsemen. In April, Winants spoke to the Capitol Hill Equestrian Society in Washington, D.C., on one of his favorite topics—horseback vacations in Ireland; in May, Winants and Rose took a group of NSL books on a pack trip to a meeting of the U.S. Endurance Ride, a group of competitive trail riders

in Leesburg, Va. Leesburg residents were also treated to a month-long display of horse books in the lobby of the town's beautiful Rust Library, which featured a selection of NSL books throughout March.

NSL Librarian Laura Rose embarked on a sporting librarian's fact-finding tour of that "other" horse heaven—Kentucky.

In Lexington, Rose spent a day at Keeneland Library, home of a world-class collection of materials on horse racing, not to mention two of the most helpful and knowledgeable minds for turf information—librarians Doris Warren and Cathy Schenck. Connie Brannen, librarian at The Jockey Club, provided a tour of The Jockey Club's corporate headquarters, which includes a library with an amazing collection of studbooks from around the world, from New Zealand to Japan, from Poland to Panama, and more. Also on the agenda in Lexington was the "must" for any horse lover—a visit to the Kentucky Horse Park and its International Museum of the Horse.

There could be no better guide to Louisville and Churchill Downs than Lynne Renau, a former curator at the Kentucky Derby Museum and a walking encyclopedia of Kentucky history. Renau's "tour de Churchill" started with an early breakfast at the backstretch track kitchen and ended with a view of the day's last race from the press box—whew! Visitors to Churchill Downs shouldn't skip the Kentucky Derby Museum, which has an impressive collection of Derby and racing material, as well as a multi-media show about Derby Day that is without a doubt the next best thing to being there.

The first copies of the index to the *American Turf Register and Sporting Magazine* and the *American Farmer* have been delivered. The index, which is available on both microfilm and microfiche, provides easy access to these 19th-century periodicals, which are important records of early American sport history. Please spread the word to libraries, researchers and institutions that might find the index useful. The cost of the index is \$150.00.

In 1992 nearly 100 new members joined the ranks of the Friends of the National Sporting Library. Do you have friends who might want to join the Friends, or learn more about the library? We would be happy to send them a copy of the National Sporting Library Newsletter and some information about the library and its services. To sign up a friend, or for information about gift memberships, call NSL Librarian Laura Rose at (703) 687-6542.

There's no need to wait for a special occasion to visit the National Sporting Library. We are open to the public weekdays from 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. Let us take you on a tour of the building and introduce you to the library's collection of books and sporting art. Bring your horse-related questions. If we can't answer them, we'll help you find someone who can.

Thanks to those who have already returned their 1993 dues cards with membership renewals. Your contributions support the Library's services, such as research assistance and inter-library loan, and also allow us to care for and expand our collection. Your donations—both books and financial contributions—are tax-deductible.

The membership dues schedule remains unchanged: life member, \$1000.00; sponsor, \$500.00; sustaining member, \$100.00; member \$25.00. We appreciate your support.

Welcome New Friends

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Justin A. Segal/Holmdel, N.J.
Mary H.D. Swift/Washington, D.C.
Ruth Lynn Youngwirth/Great Falls, Va.

The National Sporting Library Newsletter received honorable mention in the general excellence category for newsletters at the June convention of American Horse Publications, held in Santa Fe, N.M. The association, which has over 100 members in the equine publishing field, was formed in 1969 to help members improve their publications. Congratulations to this year's newsletter category winner, *Owner-Breeder* of Fremont, Calif. Other winners for general excellence were: *Thoroughbred Times*, tabloid; *The Blood-Horse*, association magazine; and *Equus*, self-supported magazine. Watch your mailbox for future NSL newsletters full of exciting news, educational stories, enlightening book reviews and more. How else are we going to win that contest next year?

Sporting Art Enthusiasts Plan Fall Tour To England

The Friends of British Sporting Art, the American arm of the British Sporting Art Trust, is arranging a one-week sporting art tour to England Oct. 10-17.

The trip will include a visit to Althorp in Northamptonshire, home of the Earl of Spencer, which houses the finest private collection of sporting paintings in England. Participants will also visit the Munnings Museum, the National Stud, the National Horseracing Museum, the Vestey Gallery, the Fitzwilliam Museum and one or two other private collections.

In addition, there will be some time spent in London, which will include Sotheby's Sporting Art Sale in aid of the British Sporting Art Trust and the Trust's annual Paul Mellon Lecture, given by John Baskett, followed by the annual dinner.

The Friends of British Sporting Art was formed in 1981 to encourage the appreciation of all facets of British Sporting Art, to promote knowledge of this art through study and research, and to foster public interest through exhibitions, lectures, publications and tours such as this. The organization parallels the British Sporting Art Trust based at the Tate Gallery in London.

For more information, contact the secretary, Mrs. Lynn Broadbent, P.O. Box 189, Clifton, Va. 22024; telephone (703) 830-4176; fax (703) 266-1721.

Attention all NSL members! Consider yourself deputized. We need your help in compiling our exhibition schedule, now a regular feature in the NSL newsletter. If you know of upcoming sporting art or book exhibitions, or any other event that may be of interest to the Friends of the National Sporting Library, please let us know. Help us inform our members and other readers about exhibitions and related activities in your neck of the woods. Time is of the essence, so send in your contributions before our next newsletter deadline, September 1. Thanks.

The following is a list of exhibitions that NSL members may find of interest. A contact number is included; we encourage you to check schedules and hours before attending.

HOUSTON, TEXAS. Houston Museum of Natural Science. "Art and the Animal." June 18-Sept. 12, 1993. (713) 639-4629. The Society of Animal Artists' annual traveling exhibition of contemporary animal art hangs its hat, and 65 artworks, in Texas.

LEXINGTON, KY. International Museum of the Horse, Kentucky Horse Park. "Buffalo Soldiers on the American Frontier: 1866-1898." Through Sept. 7, 1993. (606) 233-4303. Art and artifacts of the African American troopers of the 9th and 10th cavalries, including Frederic Remington's "Arizona Territory" and John J. Audubon's "American Bison," as well as original uniforms, tack and weapons.

LOUISVILLE, KY. Kentucky Derby Museum. "Calumet: Remembering a Racing Empire." Through Sept. 25, 1993. (502) 637-1111. Trophies, objects and photographs highlighting the legendary Calumet Farm, home of eight Kentucky Derby winners, including Whirlaway and Citation.

SAN ANTONIO, TEXAS. Witte Museum. "Thundering Hooves: Five Centuries of Horse Power in the American West." Through August 15, 1993. (512) 820-2169 or (512) 978-8167. Features more than 400 objects relating to the region's four major horse cultures: Spanish conquistadores, Mexican vaqueros, Southern Plains Indians and North American cowboys.

SARATOGA SPRINGS, N.Y. National Museum of Racing. "Treasures of the Track: Presentation Silver in the National Museum of Racing." June 26-Oct. 31, 1993. (518) 584-0400. A collection of 43 silver trophies that don't simply delight the eye; they also tell tales of 200 years of track history.

WASHINGTON, D.C. Folger Shakespeare Library. "Fabulous Beasts: Renaissance Animal Lore." June 24-Oct. 16, 1993. (202) 544-4600. The Folger explores the use of animal imagery in the Renaissance language of symbols, associations and emblems. *The Most Delectable History of Reynard the Fox* tells the story of the villainous hero, who was transformed into a symbol of sin as the stories about him spread across Europe.



The Witte Museum's "Thundering Hooves" show includes "Attack on the Pony Express," an 1885 oil painting by Charles B. Cox.

Gift Horses

Special thanks are in order for Connie Brannen, librarian at The Jockey Club in Lexington, Ky. Brannen answered our call in a past newsletter for Thoroughbred breeding information, coming through with not only a number of needed volumes of the *American Stud Book*, but also a partial run of The Jockey Club's *Foals of..* books, bound volumes of *The Blood-Horse* and more. Thanks.

Spur publisher and NSL member Sheryl Heckler also made an important donation: a run of 24 back issues of *Spur*. Other members continue to support us with their gifts: Manown Kisor donated a copy of Richard Stone Reeves' *The Golden Post; Equine Images* provided copies of all back issues of the magazine that the NSL collection lacked; Ann Ross donated two books, including Lord Charles Bentinck's *Lord Henry Bentinck's Foxhounds*; Capt. John Fritz donated three horse-related yearbooks; Alison Gibson added three issues of *Riding* magazine; Doreen Margetts donated eight volumes of the *American Racing Manual*.

Miles Napier of Leicestershire, England, donated a copy of a *Treasures of the Bloodstock Breeders' Review*, which he co-authored. William Binns, a visitor from Yorkshire, England, donated a copy of his reprint of a J.A. Lawton & Co. carriage catalog; Judy Fisher Oetinger donated a copy of her book *The Saddlebred*; Jo Struby added a copy of Myron Smith's *Equestrian Studies*; Amy MacDonald donated a copy of Andrea Jauck's *Assateague: Island of the Wild Ponies*; Barbara Sedwitz donated two pamphlets related to driving; Mrs. Austin Kaye donated a collection of books relating to Thoroughbred breeding.

Those who hold the NSL near and dear also made a number of donations. Jimmy Young, a member of the library's board of directors, donated his copy of the Pathé newsreel of the 1965 Grand National, which featured Tommy Smith and Jay Trump, as well as a signed copy of Young's book *A Field of Horses*. Former NSL Librarian June Ruhsam donated 16 issues of *American Connemara* magazine, and current NSL Director Peter Winants donated three videos: *Foxhunting*, *The Galway Blazers*, and *Jump Racing in France*. Alexander Mackay-Smith, NSL curator, contributed a copy of Homer Davenport's *The Annotated Quest*.

New Arrivals

- Aldin, Cecil/*The Romance of the Road* (London: Bracken, 1986)
 Belknap, Maria/*Horseman's Spanish/English Dictionary* (New York: Howell, 1992)
 Borries, Betty Earle/*Isaac Murphy* (Berea, Ky.: Kentucke Imprints, 1988)
 Buxton, Meriel/*World of Hunting* (London: The Sportsman's Press, 1991)
 Carr, Raymond/*English Fox Hunting* (London: Weidenfeld and Nicholson, 1986)
 Cohen, Barbara/*Horses and Their Women* (Boston: Little, Brown and Co., 1993)
 Cooke, William, ed./*International Museum of the Horse* (Louisville, Ky.: Harmony House, n.d.)
 Davies, Wynn/*The Welsh Mountain Pony* (London: J.A. Allen, 1993)
 de la Gueriniere, Francois Robichon/*Ecole De Cavalerie*—English Translation (Cleveland Heights: Xenophon, 1992)
 Diggle, Martin/*Teaching the Adult Rider* (London: J.A. Allen, 1993)
 Dunnington, Allen Gray/*Forgotten As a Dream* (N.p.: The Author, 1990)
 Fairley, John/*Racing in Art* (New York: Rizzoli, 1990)
 Gahwyler, Max/*The Competitive Edge II* (Middletown, Md.: Half Halt, 1992)
 Goble, Paul/*The Girl Who Loved Wild Horses* (New York: Macmillan, 1993)
 Gordon Watson, Mary/*Learn Horseback Riding in a Weekend* (New York: Knopf, 1992)
 Harris, Susan/*Horse Gaits, Balance and Movement* (New York: Howell, 1993)
 Johnson, Virginia Weisel/*The Heavenly Horses* (Missoula, Mont.: Mountain Press, 1986)
 Kidd, Jane/*Learning to Ride* (New York: Howell, 1992)
 Kipling, Rudyard/*The Maltese Cat* (London: Lambourn Press, 1989)
 Lijns, H.J./*Classical Circus Equitation* (London: J.A. Allen, 1993)
 Macdonald, Janet/*Teaching Side-Saddle* (London: J.A. Allen, 1993)
 Maher, Roger/*Green Mountain Horse Association* (South Woodstock, Vt.: The Association, 1993)
 Marriott, Alice/*Hell on Horses and Women* (Norman, Okla.: University of Oklahoma Press, 1993)
 McBane, Susan/*Illustrated Guide to Horse Tack* (London: David & Charles, 1992)
 McFarland, Cynthia/*Hoofbeats* (New York: Atheneum, 1993)
 Meyners, Eckart/*Fit for Riding* (Middletown, Md.: Half Halt, 1992)
 Montana, Montie/*Montie Montana* (Agua Dulce, Calif.: Double M Company, 1993)
 O'Sullivan, Peter/*That's Racing* (London: Stanley Paul, 1992)
 Pons, Josh/*Country Life Diary* (Lexington, Ky.: *The Blood-Horse*, 1992)
 Reeves, Richard Stone/*The Golden Post* (N.p.: Fine Arts Enterprises, 1985)
 Sheets, Millard/*The Horse in Folk Art* (La Jolla, Calif.: Mingei International Museum of Folk Art, 1984)
 Simon-Schoen, Bianca/*Dictionary of Equitation and Carriage Driving*, English-German (Warendorf: FN Verlag for the Deutsche Reiterliche Vereinigung, 1988)
 Walton, Elizabeth/*A Slice of Glory* (London: Stanley Paul, 1992)
 Welcome, John/*Snaffles on Hunting* (London: Lambourn Press, 1988)
 Welcome, John/*Snaffles on Racing and Point-to-Pointing* (London: Lambourn Press, 1988)
 Willis, Grania/*World of the Irish Horse* (London: Weidenfeld & Nicolson, 1992)

**"A perfect book on riding could
be written only by a horse."**

—Vladimir S. Littauer

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The Library, which was founded in 1954, has a collection of over 10,000 volumes dating from 1553. Subjects include veterinary care, dressage, eventing, show jumping, breeding, foxhunting, polo and racing. Also present are over 600 books on sporting art and a fine collection of art including work by Edward Troye, Ben Marshall, Frank Voss and Paul Brown.

- You will receive the National Sporting Library Newsletter, which features articles on contemporary and historic issues relating to the horse. The Newsletter also has reviews and listings of newly published horse books, as well as descriptions of books and art recently donated to the Library.

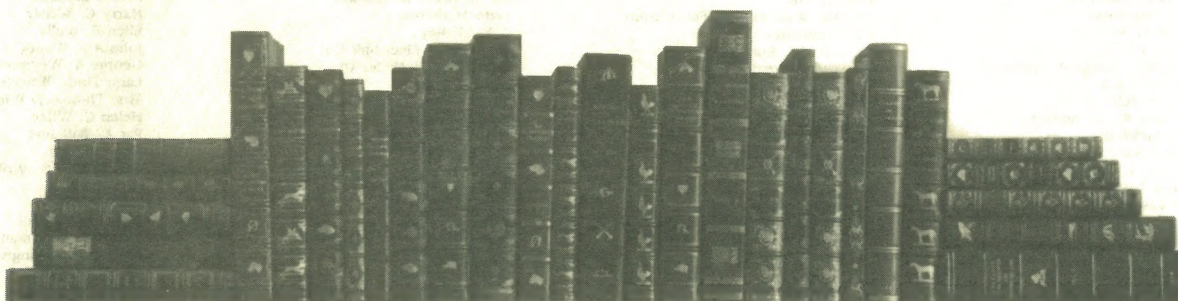
- You will bid on books in the National Sporting Library's Annual Duplicate Book Sale. The sale last November, which was restricted to Friends of the Library, had over 500 titles, many rarely on the market. The books in the sale had minimum prices ranging from \$1.00 to \$1500.

Each fall members receive a list of books for this silent auction. Past sales have included titles such as: *Thoughts On Hunting* by Peter Beckford; *Form Over Fences* by Jane Dillon; *The Maryland Hunt Cup* by Stuart Rose; *Grooming to Win* by Susan Harris; *Memoirs of a Fox-Hunting Man* by Siegfried Sassoon; *Steeplechasing* by John Hislop; *Training Hunters, Jumpers and Hacks* by Col. Harry Chamberlin; and *My Dancing White Horses* by Alois Podhajsky.

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